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Two DOLLARS a year; or ONE DOLLAR for the first regu

THE TENTH WEEK OF THE SESSION.

THOM THE DAILT NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER OF FEBRUARY 10. Progress has been made in Congress during the past week on several important questions.

In the SENATE, nearly the whole week was spe the rates of Postage on letters, &c. transmitted by the Mail. The discussion has, however, been brought to a close in that body; the bill having passed on Saturday, by the surprising majority of twenty-six votes, all the members of the Senate except two being present. This bill proposes a greater reduction of postage than we should have duties. advised, the highest postage left upon single letters and packages weighing not more than half an ounce for any and all distances being five cents, instead of the existing postage, which, as our readers know, varies, according to distance, from six and a quarter cents to twenty-five cents for each single letter, and for double, treble, and larger and heavier letters in proportion. We should have counselled a less rate of reduction, because we believe that for a year or two at least the revenue of the Post Office, under the operation of this change, will fall short of its expenses, and must necessarily be made good from the Treasury. We are reconciled to this inconvenicice to the Government, however, by the increased accommodation to be afforded to the People, and by the further consideration that this reduction will which with the Government mails, however convement it may have been found between particular ment it may have been found between particular Commissioners are employed in the other chief points, has always appeared to us to have unhappily cities on the maritime border in making similar interfered with the intention of the Constitution to place the subject of post-offices and post-roads exlesively within the control of the General Government. By this bill the privilege of franking letters is taken away from Postmasters and other Officers of Government, with few exceptions, and in lieu as cannot fail to exercise a salutary influence on thereof they are to receive credit for the amount of the action of the next Congress upon the subject. postage on letters concerning the business of their respective offices, &c .- and severe enactments are made against the abuses of the franking privilege

It would be a subject of regret that a bill which has cost the Senate so much labor, and the principle of which is undoubtedly approved by the gene- sis of the electoral franchise. Every ral sense of the people in every part of the country should fail in the other House upon its details; that change be an improvement. We incline to wish, therefore, that the bill may pass the House An article in this month's number of Hunt's without opening its details, and that a trial of it may be made as it stands. We ourselves have objection of the most gross and ridiculous errors; and although to some of its provisions; but we have greater ob- we cannot entirely agree with the memorialists iestion to the continuance of the present onerous have no census at all than such an one as has been ration of which time there is no possibility of Congress acting upon the subject if the present oppor- same," or, if that cannot be done, that something unity be suffered to pass away unimproved. No bill on the subject can ever be expected to be universally acceptable; and it is hazarding little to say that, if the present bill fail, it is an even chance hether any bill on the subject will be passed these

The Report of the Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations upon the Annexation subject, made in that city, but in consequence of the prominer at large; but, for the information of that class of them whose occupations do not allow them the necessary time to master papers of such volume and copiousness, we have prepared an abstract of the report, which such readers will find in the following columns.

The bill for the establishment of a Territorial Government in Oregon, which passed the House of Representatives early in the week, and was referred in the Senate to the Committee " on Territories," has been reported back from that committee. The bill ought now, it seems to us, to be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, to inquire, not whether the passage of such a bill is, under existing circumstances, recommended by any very patriotism, are nothing in the scale against the young urgent necessity-for that inquiry was properly within the province of the Committee on Territories but whether the passage of such a bill would compatible with the spirit of existing treaties be-

vote; but, looking at the advanced period of the session, and the improbability of getting a bill of such consequence through both Houses, the belief is justified that the subject will not be resumed.

Much to the credit of the House of Representa tives, Friday and Saturday last were given up to the consideration of bills relating to individual claims. of which, with few exceptions, the House suc ceeded in clearing its calendar. Had this duty to our own citizens earlier occupied the attention of in discussion of the details of the bill, which had the House, there would have been more certainty of occupied the two preceding weeks, for reducing the Senate's ability to act upon this mass of bills. in addition to the many others of a more general character which the House is prone to delay the passing of until too late a day in the session. We ope much, however, for the claimants from the nabitual readiness, considerateness, and assiduousness of Senators in the performance of their public

> We bespeak the attention of our readers to the profoundly able dicussion of the points of Constiutional Law involved in the Texas question which we copy to-day, according to the promise which we made to them, from the Address of the Anti-Annexation Convention of Massachusetts, held at Boston

DANIEL S. DICKINSON was on Tuesday elected Senator of the United States by the Legislature of New York for six years from the 4th of March next. The Whigs voted for John C. Clark, and the Natives for Robert Taylor.

THE NATURALIZATION LAWS.

The New York Evening Post states that the piece the mail on a footing of something like equali- United States to look into the practice which prewith the private expresses, the interference of vails in the naturalization of aliens, are in the city of New York, holding their sessions with closed doors, and sending for persons and papers.

We have no hope of the passage at this session of Congress of any act for a reform of the laws regulating Naturalization. We believe, however, that the investigation instituted by the Senate's committee will elicit most valuable information, such

The STATE CONVENTION OF LOUISIANA, which is charged with the duty of remodelling the State Constitution, on the 30th ultimo, indicated its intenwhich are said extensively to prevail. Members of tion to make an important change in the qualifica-Congress are to retain the franking privilege as it tions of electors, by refusing to strike out a clause which prescribed a residence in the State of two exists, with the restriction of it to letters written by years as one of the prerequisites to the right of suffrage. The vote on striking out was 23 yeas to 44 nays. This the Bulletin presumes to be the final determination of the Convention as respects the bacitizen is invested with the privilege of voting, with the limitation that he be not a pauper, 'nor a felon, nor insane; and that he has been a resident of the of which, at this late period of the Session, there State two years, (one of which in the parish where

> published, we think with them that it is advisable "to adopt measures for the correction of the will be done to obviate errors in the census of 1850. Six or seven hundred thousand dollars are expended in the taking of the census, and we certainly ought to secure faithful and competent agents for that pur pose .- New York Mirror.

The municipal election took place in the city of Wheeling on Monday last. Heretofore party politics have not been introduced into the election on Tuesday last, has been spread before our readers part taken by several of the Locofoco officeholder during the late Presidential canvass, the Whigs de termined to take the management of the city into their own hands; and they have done so effect tually. On Monday last they made a clean sweep, electing their Mayor and every member of the

OREGON.

The letter of our Washington correspondent con veys the important intelligence that the House of Representatives of the United States has nearly conummated its work upon Oregon. If men will pause upon the scheme, and see who

have favored that measure, and who have opposed it, they will be struck with the dangerous spirit in which the most important business of this nation is conducted. Age, experience, lofty views, and tried zealot for popular applause, with his ad captandum outbreaks of patriotism, and his loud advocacy of the extended rights of man. This is a mournful state patible with the spirit of existing treaties be-

BREAKING THE SEALS.

Wednesday was the day assigned, by the joint esolution of both Houses of Congress, for the performance of the constitutional duty of opening and counting the votes for President and Vice Presi DENT of the United States given by the Electoral Colleges of the several States.

In pursuance of that resolution, the House of RE PRESENTATIVES, at a few minutes before 12 o'clock, ispended the business in which it was engaged and prepared to receive into its Chamber, according o previous arrangement, the Senate of the United States. A table had been placed in the area before the Clerk's table for the accommodation of the recording officers of both bodies. The members, no onger in groups in the aisles and lobbies, or lounging over the last newspaper, were generally in their seats, and the silence of expectation gradually settled down on all present, as the finger of the dial pointed to the hour of noon. The doors of the hall were thrown open, and in a few moments the approach of the Senate was indicated by the senate was i pearance of their Sergeant-at-Arms, who was folpearance of their Sergeant-at-Arms, who was fol-lowed by the President and Secretary of the Senate, and then by the Senators, walking two by two; who took seats prepared for them in a double semicircle round about the area in front of the Clerk's table. round about the area in front of the Clerk's table.

the Speaker's Chair, the Speaker of the House being seated on his left, stood, as did the members of the House, until the Senators were seated in order.

The petition was referred to the Committee on Finance. WALKER, of the Senate, and Messrs. KENNEDY, of Maryland, and BURKE, of New Hampshire, of the House) took their seats at the table of the Clerk, the Secretary of the Senate on their right, the Clerk of the House on their left hand; the chief clerks of the House and the Senate being seated at the table below, the two Sergeants-at-Arms having seats on

The scene had nothing of the pomp that would have blazed upon the eye at a ceremonial of such consequence in Governments differently organized rom ours. Depending for its solemnity and its effect on the inherent greatness of the act to be done. o one who regarded it with a philosophic eye it nad a solemnity approaching the sublime. Who that reflected on the struggles, the tumult, the batles, and the blood, which have so often accompanied the acquisition of a disputed throne in the Old World-or, indeed, of a disputed Chieftainship in the Governments of the New World-could look on this peaceful and tranquil assembly, remembering the purpose which had called it together and the event which it was virtually to consun not be deeply impressed by the happy expedient here first devised for securing the succession to supreme Executive power by a delegated expression of a Nation's Will?

The spectacle was earnestly contemplated by an by possibility contain. The Ladies, never the last to catch a prevailing enthusiasm, or to gaze with interest on solemn public acts, had been pouring long every avenue, and climbing the endless multiude of steps by which they reach the narrow space allotted to them, for hours before; but the gallery called theirs could by no means contain all who struggled for seat or standing-room within its pre cincts; and those who arrived too late for these priileged places were fain to content themselves with the two nearest wings of the gentlemen's gallery, into which they seemed to have overflowed on either side. The residue of this gallery, which runs round the whole semicircular boundary of the hall, was piled up in dark masses with eager, orderly, and attentive observers of what was transacting in the

Considering the multitude assembled, an astor shing silence pervaded the hall, when Mr. MANGUM. the Senate, rose and said that "the Senate and House of Representatives had me according to the Constitution, for the purpose of counting the votes given by the Electors of the several States for President and Vice President of the United States:" and then, taking from the papers before him one of the sealed packages, broke the seals, opened it, and said: "I present to you, gentlemen Tellers, the votes of the Electors of the State of MAINE, that they may be counted."

Mr. WALKER then read aloud the Report of the Proceedings of the Electors of that State, and the Clerks took down the numbers as they were

In this manner the reports from all the States

The process was necessarily rather heavy, and othing but its great intrinsic importance prevented its being insufferably tedious, the result of each ballot being known so long beforehand. Yet a stranger, on witnessing the respectful and restrained attention of all present, might have almost supposed that the result was now made known for the

## PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS.

IN SENATE.

presentation of a great variety of memorials and petitions:

Mr. WOODBRIDGE, from the Committee on the Public
Lands, reported a bill in addition to the several resolves and
acts of Congress providing for the granting of bounty lands
to the officers and soldiers of the Revolution upon the "Con-

inental establishment."

Mr. EVANS, from the Committee on Pensi ill for the relief of Joseph Morrison.

Mr. WOODBRIDGE, from the Committee on the Public

Mr. BAYARD, from the Committee on Naval Affai

ATMOSPHERIC RAILWAY. Mr. HUGER presented a memorial of the South Carolina

The President of the Senate having ascended to Mr. H. hoped that the prayer of the expense of the experiment. ceded to, and that this very interesting and important experi-ment would be fully tested. If it proved successful, it would be of great public advantage; and if it failed, there would be

FRENCH SPOLIATION BILL

The bill to provide for the ascertainment of claims of Ameri was called up by—

Mr. CHOATE, who offered a substitute for the bill, the

igth of which precludes its insertion for the present.

were allowed and paid, in whole or in part, under the provisions of the treaty between the United States and Spain, con eluded on the 22d of February, 1819; nor to such claims a were allowed, in whole or in part, under the provisions of the treaty between the United States and France, concluded on the 4th of July, 1831; and provided, also, that in all cases of transfer or assignment no claimant shall be entitled to receive amount beyond the consideration paid, and interest thereon.

That, for the purpose of carrying into effect the provision of the act, and to ascertain the full amount and validity of sacrations. The commissioners shall be appointed by the Presidents.

Mr. CHOATE advocated his amendment in an imp speech, which occupied about an hour in its delivery; after which the amendment was agreed to, and the bill ordered to

which the amendment was agreed to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed for a third reading by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Ashley, Barrow, Bayard, Berrien, Buchanan, Choate, Clayton, Dayton, Evans, Fairfield, Francis, Huntington, Johnson, Merrick, Miller, Niles, Phelps, Porter, Sevier, Simmons, Sturgeon, Upham, White, Woodbridge, Woodbury—26.

NAYS—Messrs. Allen, Atchison, Atherton, Benton, Breese, Colquitt, Dickinson, Dix, Hannegan, Huger, Lewis, McDuffie, Mangum, Tappan, Walker—15.

GENERAL ORDERS. The Senate then took up the general orders, and considere the following bills, which were ordered to be engrossed:

The joint resolution, amendatory of the resolution passes
April 30, 1824, respecting the application of certain appro

The bill to provide a free bridge across the Eastern Branch of the River Potomac, in the city of Washington. The bill allowing drawback upon foreign me ported in the original packages.

The bill for the organization of a company

The bill for the relief of Seth M. Leavenworth was read

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE.

The bill for reducing the rates of postage, &c. was then taken up. This bill had been engrossed for its third reading, and the question was now upon its passage. Some amendments were then made by general consent, not affecting the character of the bill, but necessary to make it conformable to amendments which had been made to it.

The franking privilege was extended to ex-Presidents Adams, Jackson, and Van Buren. A motion was made to

extend it to the acting President, but, objection being raised were gone through with; the Tellers relieving each other from time to time in the reading.

the motion was withdrawn; subsequently, however, on motion of Mr. FOSTER, the privilege of franking was extended to the President of the United States whilst in office, and to

all ex-Presidents.

The question being on the third reading—
Mr. McDUFFIE said that he was opposed to the bill, because he believed that its operation would be prejudicial to the public interest. He wished not only to record his vote but to

He did not think there was a Senator present who really believed that the Post Office Department could be sustained by the bill before them; or that it would not, by its operation, by

special distributions are supposed such a bill would give read be proposed by the supposed of the protection of all greening which is as much a part of greening which gree

pay it.

The people in many parts of the country were taught to regard postage as a tax; it is mistakenly viewed as such. When a man pays twenty-five cents for postage, he no more pays a tax than when he pays a wagoner or a boatmen for transportation of code.

By Mr. OWEN, from the Committee on Roads and Castion of code.

By Mr. OWEN, from the Committee on Roads and Castion of code. a more equitable manner than upon him who receives the advantage of it? Is it right that the poor man should be taxed den which the South always bears in the shape of protective den which the South always bears in the snape of protective duties for the benefit of the people of the North, we are now asked to pay their postage. Why do they not also ask us to pay the carriage of their cotton goods to Charleston, and the other markets of the South?

The operation of this bill cannot fail to have a most corrunt The operation of this bill cannot fail to have a most corrupting influence upon the Post Office Department, already a most important political engine, and capable of producing momentous effects for good or for ill. Pass this bill, and you will increase its influence and its power, and in ten years it will control the Government and the Presidency.

No purer man ever went into office than a former head of the Department went into office than a former head of the Department went into office than a former head of the Department went into office than a former head of the Department went into office than a former head of the Department went into office than a former head of the Department went into office than a former head of the Department went into office than a former head of the Department with the Department and the D

the Department who now occupies a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court; he came out of the Post Office pure and un-

become almost omnipotent; and yet the Senate have enlarge the power of the Postmaster General by the enactment of the present bill, which gives him the power of increasing the emo aments of deputy postmasters. The post office system con-ained most dangerous means of corruption: the power of doing group should be diminished, not increased.

He was opposed to the bill because it laid the burden of sostage unfairly, and because it tended to increase the means of

any circumstances, would take the burden of postage from those who are benefited by it, and place it on those who are not. This he illustrated in various ways. He had no heard any satisfactory reasons why the bill should not pass. Mr. S. went over his statistical view of the English post office.

tain itself by the proposed rate of postage.

Mr. McDUFFIE replied that if he could believe with the Senator from Rhode Island that the office would sustain itsel under the new arrangement, he should be as warm an advocate

equitable means which can be devised—that is, by every one paying towards its support according to the advantage which he would derive from it. But he did not imagine that even for the first year the deficiency would be equal to what the honorable Senator from South Carolina imagined. He was of opinion that, although there might be a deficiency for the first and second years, there would be none in the third.

He had great confidence in the next Congress. The pr sent bill was an experiment; if it succeeded, a great goo would have been accomplished; if it failed, it could be remedie next year, as he had no doubt it would be, if there was no then an appearance of the present arrangement answering an meeting the expenses of the Department. The people would have had their petitions for cheap postage attended to, and they would acquiesce in the repeal of the proposed bill, and a return to the present system, or any other better one which could be resorted to.

The question was then taken on the pasrage of the bill, a

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Ashley, Atchison, Atherton, Barow, Bates, Bayard, Benton, Berrien, Breese, Buchanan hoate, Crittenden, Dayton, Dickinson, Dix, Evans, Fairfield

Foster, Francis, Henderson, Huntington, Jarnagin, Johnso Merrick, Miller, Morchead, Niles, Porter, Rives, Simmon Sturgeon, Tappan, Upham, Walker, White, Woodbridg Woodbury—38.

Woodbury—38.

NAYS—Messrs. Bagby, Clayton, Colquitt, Hannegan, Haywood, Huger, Lewis, McDuffie, Mangum, Phelps, Semple Sevier—12.

So the bill was passed, and ordered to be sent to the Hou

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Mr. GRIDER, on leave, introduced a bill to improve and raduate the price of public lands in favor of actual settlers.

The bill was received and committed REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

By Mr. THOS. SMITH, of Indiana, from the Committee of Claims, a bill for the relief of John W. Hockett; which vas read twice and committed.

upon the case of John R. Williams, accompanied by a bill for s relief; which was committed.

By Mr. PHCENIX, from the Committee on Commer the bill from the Senate relating to revenue cutters and steam rs, without amendment.

The bill was then read, and is as follows : Be it enacted, &c. That no revenue cutter or revenue steamer shall hereafter be built or purchased, (excepting such as are now in the course of building and equipment,) unless an appropriation be first made by law therefor. The bill was then ordered to be read the third time; and i

those who ought not to pay it, to relieve those who ought to | By Mr. SIMPSON, from the Committee on Naval Affairs,

time, and committed.

Also, from the same committee, a bill making approprior for certain improvements in the Territory of Florida; bill was read the first and second time, and committed.

Lands, three bills, viz:

A bill for the relief of John G. McCloud.

A bill to grant to the county of Bates, in the State of Missouri, the right of pre-emption to a quarter section of land for

ries, a bill to make appropriation to defray the expenses of the session of the Assembly of the Territory of Wisconsin, held in

and committed.

By Mr. HOUSTON, from the Committee on Public Lands, By Mr. CHARLES J. INGERSOLL, from the Co

tee on Foreign Affairs, to which had been referred the bill in-troduced by Mr. Darrasen, to provide for the adjustment and settlement of claims of American citizens on the Republic of Mexico, reported it back to the House without amendment. The bill was then committed.

Mr. PARMENTER asked that the House,

consent, take up, out of time, for consideration, the joint resolution from the Senate to suspend a part of the third section of the joint resolution of the 11th of September, 1841, rela-

ting to armories.

No objection being made, the joint resolution was taken up, considered, and ordered to a third reading; and it was read the third time and passed forthwith, and returned to the Senate.

PRIVATE BILLS PASSED.

PRIVATE BILLS PASSED.

Mr. VANCE asked the House to take up the private bills and joint resolutions reported yesterday from the Committee of the Whole. This was agreed to.

And the bills were taken up in the order in which they were reported, and were severally ordered to be engrossed and read a third time; and, as ordered, were read the third time and passed, and sent to the Senate for concurence, to wit:

A bill for the relief of Elliot Smith and Nathan Farnsworth.

A bill for the relief of Stanley White.

A bill for the relief of Dunning R. McNair.

A bill for the relief of James Curwen, surviving partner of Curwen & Willing.

Curwen & Willing.

A bill for the relief of John Adams and John Adams, Jr.

A bill for the relief of Harvey & Slagg.

A bill for the relief of Jacob Boston.

A bill for the relief of Samuel Neely.

A bill for the relief of Bennet M. Dell.

A bill for the relief of Elisha Morrell, administrator of Jos.

A bill for the relief of Adino Goodenough.

Resolution authorizing the Secretary of War to pay any alance that may be due the Shawnee Indians who served in

A bill for the relief of William Gove. A bill for the relief of Lot Davis. A bill for the relief of Isabella Baldrige, widow of Captain

A bill for the relief of Philip Schwartztrawbe A bill for the relief of Daniel Homans.

A bill for the relief of William Rich. A bill for the relief of the Bank of the Metro

A bill for the relief of William Gump.
A bill for the relief of John Ficklin.
A bill for the relief of Arthur R. Frogge, of Fentres

A bill for the relief of John H. McIntosh. A bill for the relief of March Farrington. A bill for the relief of Henry N. Halsted. A bill for the relief of Justin Jacobs. A bill placing the name of Benjamin Allen upon the invalid

A bill for the relief of Harrison Whitson. A bill for the relief of the president, directors, and compare

of the Dismal Swamp canal.

A bill for the relief of George Wentling.

A bill for the relief of Jacob L. Vance, of Ohio.

A bill for the relief of Charles R. Allen, of Richmond, Vir-

ginia.

A bill for the relief of John P. Converse.

A bill supplemental to an act for the relief of Jehu Hollinsworth, of Blount county, Alabama, approved 28th June, 1838.

A bill for the relief of John Boyd.

A resolution for the relief of Sellers & Pennock.

A bill for the relief of Joseph Ramsey.

A bill for the relief of George B. Russell.

A bill to pay Captain John B. Crozier's company of mountary colunteers. Tennessee militia.

od volunteers, Tennessee militia.

A bill for the relief of Peter Von Schmidt.

A bill for the benefit of Joseph Craigmiles, A bill for the relief of John E. Wright. A bill for the relief of Thomas Bronough. A bill for the relief of Francis Summeraner A bill for the relief of Joseph Watson.

A bill to extend the time for two years for two years for locating Virginia military land warrants and return to the Land Office. When this bill came up— Mr. TIBBATTS moved to amend so as to extend the tim fire years instead of two; which motion was adopted, and the bill passed as amended.

The bills from the Senate, which were also reported from the Committee of the Whole yesterday, were also taken up and separately considered, ordered to a third reading, were read a third time and pessed, and returned to the Senate,

The bill granting a pension to James Duffy The bill for the relief of James Ritchic The bill for the relief of J. McFarlane.